

October 3, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch
Commission Secretary
445 12th Street SW, CY-B402,
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Proceeding 02-306

Dear Commissioners:

The San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce was established to promote the economic vitality and quality of life within the Silicon Valley. We have a long history of supporting free market competition for all types of business. It has come to our attention that you are currently reviewing SBC Pacific Bell's long distance application. Similar to other Chambers across the state, we have supported SBC Pacific Bell's entry into the long distance market for many years.

Our organization fully comprehends the significance of a robust telecommunications market. It is our desire for the Federal Communications Commission to enact policies and regulations that increases competition. We are dismayed that the long distance entry process for SBC Pacific Bell has taken so long when other states have opened the door to long distance competition.

Businesses and consumers alike will benefit from real competition in the long distance market. Enhanced competition is necessary to provide Californians with more choices, better services, increased convenience and greater value. The competitive nature of the telecommunications industry will pressure the current long distance carriers to lower their rates - exactly what has happened in other states.

SBC Pacific Bell's long distance application has undergone numerous hearings, reviews, testing, and filings over the past four years. To date, 23 states have approved applications and received Federal Communications Commissions approval - more than 141 million Americans are benefiting from increased telecommunications competition. Our members, and Californians as a whole, should be next.

We hope you will support our long-standing mission to create a business-friendly environment and allow SBC Pacific Bell to compete for long distance. We urge you to approve SBC Pacific Bell's long distance application in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

Jim Cunneen
President & CEO
San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce